



BELIZE SHINES IN ASIA

"ONE BELIZE, ONE PURPOSE: ECOSYSTEMS FOR LIFE"

"Belize is honored to stand among the nations of the world at Expo 2025 Osaka. This is more than a celebration of our identity; it is a declaration of our commitment to sustainability, innovation, and meaningful global collaboration" – PM John Briceño on National Day-August 3 at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka Japan.

National Day of Belize at this renowned exposition of the best of the world was in the EXPO National Day Hall "Ray Garden". The Government of Belize proudly announced its official participation in the National Day celebration at the Expo 2025 under the national theme "One Belize, One Purpose: Ecosystem for Life."

This "marked a moment of cultural and diplomatic significance, and Belize delivered a vibrant and meaningful showcase of its heritage, development vision, and international partnerships." A formal flag-raising ceremony made the opening official then followed by the Prime Minister's address. The cultural performances definitely showcased Belize's diverse ethnic tapestry, including Mestizo traditions, Creole culture, Maya dance and Garifuna drumming, as well as presentations on trade, tourism, and sustainable development.

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Blue Carbon Credits and NDC 3.0 | GoB Reaffirming Facts

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BELIZE AT COSEFIN

REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL COOPERATION

NEW BANKNOTE SERIES

NEW LOOK,
SAME VALUE

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Belizean Culture Rises In the Far East

In an interview with Channel 5, Alex Evans one of Belize’s renowned musicians revealed, “*We had Mr. Ian Yacab on the marimba. We had Josh Arana on the Garifuna drums. We had Emelio Thomas, who was also a prominent Garifuna artist. We had Cocono Bwai, the Brukdown Prince of Belize. We had Ernestine Carballo, the Soca Queen of Belize. We had myself playing the steel pan but also playing several different instruments and just filling in to support the other artists as well. And we had a group of dancers led by Christelle Gabri el and the other dancers were Mr. Philip Ramsey and Adana Mendoza. And together, we were able to showcase the Maya, Mestizo, Creole Garifuna cultures, as well as to give a little bit of carnival.*” What Mr. Evan described there is truly Belize.

From April 13 to October 14, 2025, Belize has been at center stage in the "Saving Lives" section of World Expo 2025 Osaka, in the Kansai region of Japan, offering visitors an unforgettable journey through its rich heritage, truly adventurous landscapes, and flourishing business opportunities. The Belize Pavilion is an immersive space where world guests can explore the heart and soul of our vibrant nation from its historic Mayan roots leading to it contemporary unveiling of its visionaries.



Belize’s participation aligns with the Expo's core theme, “Designing Future Society for Our Lives,” and echoes the country’s holistic approach to balancing environmental preservation with economic growth and cultural heritage. The Belize Pavilion, a collaborative effort led by BELTRAIDE, the BTB, and the Blue Bond Unit, had received over 850,000 visitors to the August 3 National Day and will remain open to the public until October 15, 2025. It offers interactive exhibits on investment opportunities, blue economy innovations, sustainable tourism, and Made in Belize products.

The Belizean Delegation, led by Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño, included Hon. Anthony Mahler, Minister of Tourism, Youth, Sports and Diaspora Relations; Hon. Devin Daly, Minister of State, Youth and Sports; Chief Executive Officers of the Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, the Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation, the Ministry of Finance, Investment, and Civil Aviation, along with representatives from BELTRAIDE and the National Institute of Culture and History.

You can still view the presentation on the Government of Belize’s Facebook page, allowing Belizeans at home and abroad get at a glimpse of their home on the world stage. The pavilion will be open



Great Excitement in Belize New Shrimp Trade with Taiwan

Last week, the Government of Belize and the Republic of China - Taiwan jointly announced during a bilateral meeting in Taiwan that the long sought opportunity to export Belizean Shrimp to Taiwan was finally formalized. Thanks to an agreement for seafood export Lobster has seen the Taiwan Market since 2022. But now it was the turn of the smaller crustacean. The Embassy of Taiwan on Belize excitedly announced via its FB page that, starting from July 30, 2025, Taiwan officially opens its market to white shrimp from Belize tariff-free! This significant development further strengthens our bilateral trade and economic partnership between two countries who have strengthened their friendship even via Parliamentary motions. Belize is serious about it support.

The Latin America and the Caribbean Division in Release No. 266 stated the import of frozen Belizean white shrimp and other aquatic products into Taiwan will be fully permitted. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes this new milestone in Taiwan-Belize economic and trade cooperation and will continue to assist allies in importing high-quality agricultural and fishery products to Taiwanese consumers.

Since the signing in January 2022, the economic and trade relations between the two countries have continued to grow. Taiwan's consumer market demands approximately 30,000 metric tons of white shrimp annually, domestic production is insufficient and the country has to rely on foreign imports. After continuous efforts by both sides, Belizean aquatic products have passed the food import system inspection of Taiwan, and from now onwards, Belizean frozen white shrimp and other products will be allowed to be imported into Taiwan with zero tariffs, which specifically demonstrates the win-win results of economic and trade diplomacy of mutual benefit and prosperity between Taiwan and its allies.

Belize is always seeking to expand its trade horizons and opportunities and this is a major win towards the GDP of Belize. Shrimp farmers and investors will be elated in placing more into this industry. This will mean more jobs and growth for the Belizean economy. The excitement for the opening of the Shrimp market for Belize came in time with Japan’s Osaka 2025 National Day for Belize. Belize is ready of the world. We take the opportunity to congratulate Taiwan on their Pavilion as well.



The Grand Ring: Owns Guinness World Record



At 61,035 square metres, it is the largest wooden architectural structure in the world. The World's largest wooden structure encircles Expo 2025 Osaka. The walls around the main center of the World Expo area is known as the Grand Ring. It is primarily made of Japanese cedar (Cryptomeria) and cypress (Chamaecyparis obtusa). Approximately 70% of this wood is from these Japanese species. The remaining 30% is sourced from foreign Scots pine (Pinus sylvestris). The wood look is definitely only rivalled in environmentally-friendly symbolism by late Pope Francis’ casket. The walls creations were that of Japanese studio Sou Fujimoto Architects. The Grand Ring was designed to be dismantled, as most structures at the Expo. This Expo is still two months opened but you might want to know that the next World Expo’s venue is Riyadh and open between 1 October 2030 and 31 March 2031.



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EDITORIAL

Bridging Markets while Investing in Culture, Industry & Growth

How far is Belize from the doldrums of November 2020? How close is Belize to that vaunted economic independence anticipated by the Father of the Nation? What would economic independence look like? Would it mean that as a country, Belize would be economically and financially isolated? Economic independence means that we are economically vibrant and working in harmony with our neighbours and the global economy. Belize’s sovereignty gives us leverage to dictate who we trade with. Of course, this includes abiding by international law and various accords. Today, our economic independence has taken on our geographic reality—we are strategically positioned at the centre of Central America, North America, the Caribbean, and Latin America. This strategic location positions us to serve as a hub between multiple markets while promoting our own culture, industry, and growth.

From the 3rd to the 5th of September, Belize will convene all its major stakeholders in investment in San Pedro, Belize, at the 3rd Investment Summit. This high-profile, strategic national event is designed to showcase Belize’s potential as a significant investment destination in the region. Our influence is displayed in the motto “Bridging Markets, Building Resilience.” Belize is a comfortable gateway between our physical neighbours, promoting its strategic location and connectivity. But Belize’s scope goes beyond the region; let us not forget that Belizean trade with Taiwan has opened up its lucrative Shrimp market—not an easy feat.

Belize exports to the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain, Japan, African countries and, of course, to our regions. This third Belize Investment Summit seeks to fortify Belize’s geographical economic position. It also aims to attract more investment that will increase our productivity. An SDG Investor Map identifies 16 Investment Opportunity Areas, all of which will likely be represented at the summit. The Belize Investment Summit 2025 is pivotal in advancing Belize’s vision of becoming a resilient, sustainable, and dynamic hub for investment. It seeks to blend economic opportunity with social inclusivity, facilitating meaningful dialogue, strategic partnerships, and long-term growth for both investors and Belize itself.

Belize has strategically negotiated partial scope agreements with Guatemala and Taiwan, and is currently working on one with El Salvador. These agreements bring significant benefits, including tariff cuts and elimination, dispute frameworks, preferential trade provisions, and investment opportunities. Prime Minister John Briceño and his team are committed to maximising the advantages of these agreements, while also leveraging our membership in CARICOM and SICA. This global outlook is evident in the Prime Minister's engagements, which can range from meetings with the European Union to hosting a Cuban Delegation. Belize is truly a global trade partner, and these agreements are a testament to our commitment to fostering mutually beneficial relationships.

Belize is a friendly nation looking to form partnerships to benefit Belizeans sustainably. She makes no apologies for continually seeking the economic independence that other countries already enjoy. The record net Foreign Direct Investment inflows in 2024, which amounted to USD 127.9 million, approximately prove that confidence has grown in the jewel. Belize aims to strengthen its position as both a tourist destination and a place where investors can expect returns, while also benefiting from job creation and sustainable development. The impressive discussions to extend the Tren Maya through Belize are a testament to our excellent economic relations with our neighbours, Mexico and Guatemala. Belize is even included in the Mexico-led conceptualised Interoceanic Corridor. Data shows that trade is increasing with these two nations. It is not coincidental that this is during the planBelize era.

Belize thus moves forward with its plans to eliminate poverty through economic independence, energy independence, universal access to healthcare, relevant education for all, applicable and suitable jobs, and access to a house and lot, all in a safe society. Belize’s resilient culture of work will always attract investment and thus instil growth as long as we have visionary leaders, and we do. The government's unwavering commitment to national progress ensures that these plans are not just aspirations, but a roadmap to a better future for all Belizeans.

The visionary John Briceño government daily makes use of all laws, all events, all meetings, all agreements and all its grit in ensuring that all Belizeans must win. The government's proactive approach, coupled with its dedication and determination, is a testament to its commitment to the people of Belize.

en Español

Conectando mercados mientras se invierte en cultura, industria y crecimiento

A qué distancia se encuentra Belice de la crisis de noviembre de 2020? ¿Cuán cerca está Belice de esa tan cacareada independencia económica que anticipó el Padre de la Nación? ¿Cómo sería la independencia económica? ¿Significaría que, como país, Belice estaría aislado económicamente y financieramente? La independencia económica significa que somos económicamente dinámicos y trabajamos en armonía con nuestros vecinos y la economía global. La soberanía de Belice nos da la capacidad de decidir con quién comerciamos. Por supuesto, esto incluye el cumplimiento del derecho internacional y diversos acuerdos. Hoy en día, nuestra independencia económica se ha adaptado a nuestra realidad geográfica: estamos estratégicamente situados en el centro de América Central, América del Norte, el Caribe y América Latina. Esta ubicación estratégica nos permite servir de centro neurálgico entre múltiples mercados, al tiempo que promovemos nuestra propia cultura, industria y crecimiento.

Del 3 al 5 de septiembre, Belice reunirá a todos sus principales actores en materia de inversión en San Pedro, Belice, en la tercera Cumbre de Inversión. Este evento nacional estratégico y de alto perfil está diseñado para mostrar el potencial de Belice como un importante destino de inversión en la región. Nuestra influencia se refleja en el lema «Tendiendo puentes entre mercados, construyendo resiliencia». Belice es una cómoda puerta de entrada entre nuestros vecinos físicos, que promueve su ubicación estratégica y su conectividad. Pero el alcance de Belice va más allá de la región; no olvidemos que el comercio de Belice con Taiwán ha abierto su lucrativo mercado del camarón, lo cual no es una hazaña fácil.

Belice exporta a Estados Unidos, Reino Unido, España, Japón, países africanos y, por supuesto, a nuestras regiones. Esta tercera Cumbre de Inversión de Belice busca fortalecer la posición económica geográfica de Belice. También tiene como objetivo atraer más inversiones que aumenten nuestra productividad. Un mapa de inversores de los ODS identifica 16 áreas de oportunidad de inversión, todas las cuales probablemente estarán representadas en la cumbre. La Cumbre de Inversión de Belice 2025 es fundamental para promover la visión de Belice de convertirse en un centro de inversión resiliente, sostenible y dinámico. Su objetivo es combinar las oportunidades económicas con la inclusión social, facilitando un diálogo significativo, asociaciones estratégicas y un crecimiento a largo plazo tanto para los inversores como para el propio Belice.

Belice ha negociado estratégicamente acuerdos de alcance parcial con Guatemala y Taiwán, y actualmente está trabajando en uno con El Salvador. Estos acuerdos aportan importantes beneficios, como la reducción y eliminación de aranceles, marcos de resolución de controversias, disposiciones comerciales preferenciales y oportunidades de inversión. El primer ministro John Briceño y su equipo se han comprometido a maximizar las ventajas de estos acuerdos, al tiempo que aprovechan nuestra pertenencia a la CARICOM y al SICA. Esta perspectiva global se refleja en los compromisos del primer ministro, que pueden ir desde reuniones con la Unión Europea hasta la acogida de una delegación cubana. Belice es un verdadero socio comercial global, y estos acuerdos son una prueba de nuestro compromiso con el fomento de relaciones mutuamente beneficiosas.

Belice es una nación amistosa que busca formar alianzas para beneficiar a los beliceños de manera sostenible. No se disculpa por buscar continuamente la independencia económica que otros países ya disfrutaban. El récord de entradas netas de inversión extranjera directa en 2024, que ascendió a unos 127,9 millones de dólares estadounidenses, demuestra que la confianza en la joya ha crecido. Belice pretende reforzar su posición como destino turístico y como lugar en el que los inversores pueden esperar obtener beneficios, al tiempo que se beneficia de la creación de empleo y el desarrollo sostenible. Las impresionantes conversaciones para ampliar el Tren Maya a través de Belice son una prueba de nuestras excelentes relaciones económicas con nuestros vecinos, México y Guatemala. Belice incluso está incluido en el Corredor Interoceánico conceptualizado por México. Los datos muestran que el comercio con estas dos naciones está aumentando. No es casualidad que esto ocurra durante la era del planBelize.

Belice avanza así en sus planes para eliminar la pobreza mediante la independencia económica, la independencia energética, el acceso universal a la sanidad, una educación relevante para todos, puestos de trabajo aplicables y adecuados, y el acceso a una vivienda y un terreno, todo ello en una sociedad segura. La resistente cultura de trabajo de Belice siempre atraerá inversiones y, por lo tanto, fomentará el crecimiento, siempre y cuando contemos con líderes visionarios, y los tenemos. El compromiso inquebrantable del Gobierno con el progreso nacional garantiza que estos planes no sean solo aspiraciones, sino una hoja de ruta hacia un futuro mejor para todos los beliceños.

El visionario Gobierno de John Briceño aprovecha a diario todas las leyes, todos los eventos, todas las reuniones, todos los acuerdos y toda su determinación para garantizar que todos los beliceños salgan ganando. El enfoque proactivo del Gobierno, junto con su dedicación y determinación, es una prueba de su compromiso con el pueblo de Belice.

Belizeans Celebrate Culture and Buying Power

August 6, 2025, - Belize – Over the past weekend, Belizeans across the country highlighted not just their cultural pride—but their growing purchasing power—as multiple vibrant festivals, commemorations, and initiatives lit up the national calendar. From Hopkins to Belmopan, Orange Walk to Eboe Town in Belize City, families turned out in full force, energized by meaningful celebrations, a tax-free shopping weekend, and a reaffirmed national identity.

GST-FREE
Weekends
August 15-17

A Festival of Savings and Spirit With the launch of the GST-free Back-to-School weekends under Plan Belize 2.0, families were able to stretch their budgets further. Parents purchased notebooks, uniforms, stationery, and other essentials without the additional 12.5% tax, alleviating some financial pressure ahead of the new school year. The first weekend coincided with Emancipation Day and Hopkins Day—offering a perfect combination of patriotic celebration and consumer empowerment.

“This was one of the best ideas this year. I could afford more for all three of my children,” shared a Belize City mother while shopping downtown. The Belize Tax Service reminded shoppers to check receipts and report any GST mischarges, ensuring transparency and trust in the initiative. The second weekend is from Friday, August 15th to Sunday, August 17th. Save the date.

A Capital Celebration

Inland, Belmopan celebrated 55 years as the nation’s capital and 25 years as an incorporated city. Residents gathered for a heartfelt official ceremony at Mae Gordon Park, where Mayor Pablo Cawich and Hon. Oscar Mira reflected on the city’s journey and vision. The marketplace buzzed with vendors offering handmade goods and local cuisine, echoing the day’s theme: “Planted in the Past, Growing in the Present, Looking to the Future.” The success of the event signaled not just civic pride—but confidence in Belmopan’s economic and cultural momentum.



Emancipation Day & Eboe Town Festival

Emancipation Day is observed on August 1. This year marks 191 years since the abolition of slavery. The ceremony at Government House honored ancestors through cultural performances, poetry, and rituals. Hon. Francis Fonseca emphasized that “freedom was not a gift, but a victory,” calling for continued decolonization of Belize’s education system and upliftment of African heritage.

The historic Eboe Town Festival, staged near Isaiah Morter Square, celebrated Afro-Belizean resilience with traditional foods, drumming, arts, and heritage demonstrations. Culture Lane offered hands-on experiences with forgotten utensils and crafts, bridging generations and traditions.

Roots and Rhythm

Hopkins Day 2025, held August 1st to 3rd, was a resounding success. Thousands descended on the coastal village for a “back to the roots” experience. Traditional food, local drumming, and family-friendly activities brought the community together under the banner of cultural revival and Garifuna pride. The event not only bolstered tourism in southern Belize but also provided local entrepreneurs with a chance to benefit from the increased foot traffic. Many vendors noted stronger sales this year, crediting both the cultural draw and consumers’ increased ability to spend.



Northern Joy

In Orange Walk, the beloved Fiestarama returned with a bang on August 2nd and 3rd. Coordinated by the Town Council, it featured mechanical rides, live music, a Cabalgata, car show, sports, popup shops, and local delicacies, drawing crowds from across the country. Vendors and artists reported vibrant sales, and parents in town benefited from the concurrent tax-free period and increased local travel.



A Weekend of Prosperity and Purpose

The success of these events highlights more than national pride—it demonstrates improving economic conditions, better policy support, and increased spending power for everyday Belizeans. Whether it was purchasing school supplies without GST, supporting local businesses at community festivals, or reflecting on the strength of ancestral legacy—Belizeans embraced their cultural wealth and financial agency. And as one Hopkins Day vendor put it, “This weekend proved Belizeans are not just surviving—we’re thriving.”



Enhancing Caribbean Connectivity



Travel and Tour world is calling the new Spirit Airline flight to ‘Belize Enhancing Caribbean Connectivity’, and that is alluring. This is a result of the Ministry of Tourism’s and the Belize Tourism Board’s marketing push to allow more access to Belize.

The allure is a direct flight from Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport to Belize’s Philip Goldson International Airport on November 21, 2025, with introductory one-way tickets as low as USD \$85 from Florida to Belize and starting at \$180 one-way Belize to Florida.

This means that travelers can travel from the vibrant City of Fort Lauderdale to explore ancient Mayan cities, Belizean waters, Belizean Cayes, and more in under a mere 2 hours!

Flights will operate 3 times per week: Departs FLL: 10:15 AM | Arrives BZE: 11:40 AM;

Then it Departs BZE: 12:35 PM | Arrives FLL: 4:00 PM.

Travel and World Tour: “The new route will have three weekly flights on Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays, providing passengers a convenient and direct connection to one of the Caribbean’s most vibrant destinations...In celebration of this new route, Spirit Airlines is offering introductory fares starting at just \$85 one-way, including taxes and fees... These fares are available for booking now on spirit.com, where travelers can find complete flight information and secure their tickets. With these affordable prices, passengers can experience the vibrant culture and natural beauty of Belize without exceeding their travel budget. “With its world-class water excursions and beautiful landscapes, Belize is an incredible addition to our international service and growing Fort Lauderdale route map,” said John Kirby, Vice President of Network Planning at Spirit Airlines. ‘We’re looking forward to offering our Belize Guests an elevated travel experience on their journey to the United States and giving our Fort Lauderdale Guests even more destinations to explore as we double down on our FLL service’.”

<https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article>

“We are excited to welcome Spirit Airlines’ new nonstop service from Fort Lauderdale to Belize,” said Hon. Anthony Mahler, Minister of Tourism, Youth, Sports and Diaspora Relations for Belize. “This new route enhances our connectivity and offers more convenient travel options for both visitors and our diaspora. From our breathtaking natural beauty to our rich cultural experiences, there’s so much waiting to be discovered in Belize. Strengthening this link with Fort Lauderdale not only boosts travel to our shores but also deepens tourism ties between our destinations and paves the way for shared economic opportunities.”

BTB states: “With competitive prices and flexible options including Spirit First, Premium Economy, and Value seating, this new service offers travelers greater accessibility to Belize than ever before.” (Post)

The Philip Goldson International Airport has over 400k international arrivals for the first four months and thus a record 1.2 million projected for the year 2025. With this new flight, the prospects of the record being attained is easier. Belize is the place to be and the flood of tourists and visits to Belize by diaspora Belizeans is increasing on par with BTB efforts.



Belize National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let Your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives.

With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and, in that peace which the world itself cannot give.

And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.
Amen.

FOR SALE
BY ORDER OF THE MORTGAGEE

The Development Finance Corporation of Bliss Parade, City of Belmopan, Cayo District hereby gives notice of its intention to exercise its power of sale as mortgagee under Deed of Mortgages or Charges between those hereinafter named and the said Corporation which mortgages or charges are recorded at the Land Titles Unit or the Lands Registry, respectively and that the said Development Finance Corporation will, at the expiration of two (2) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, sell the properties described in the Schedule hereto.

All offers to purchase the said properties must be made in writing to the said Corporation at its Headquarters Office or District Offices.

SCHEDULE

Parcel No. 5984, Block No. 16, Ladyville/ Lord's Bank Registration Section containing approximately 452.38 S.M. situate in Ladyville Village, Belize District, Belize, held under a Land Certificate being the freehold interest of SHAJIDAH ELIZABETH WADE.



**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)**

Data Warehouse Expert

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize, Central America
Project: Strengthening Public Expenditure Management (SPEM)
Process ID: BL-L1038 – P00106
Deadline: August 21, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project – Strengthening Public Expenditure Management (SPEM) in Belize.

The Ministry of Finance, through its Central Executing Unit, intends to allocate a portion of the project’s proceeds to procure the services of an Individual Consultant as a “Data Warehouse Expert”.

The Ministry of Finance invites interested individuals to access the full version of this request for application online at <https://mof.gov.bz/procurement-opportunities/> or by scanning the QR code below, and to submit their application in accordance with the instructions provided in the full version.

ATTN: Trudy Joseph
Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-4106
Email: procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz



Ref: Data Warehouse Expert (BL-L1038) - Your name



**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(INDIVIDUAL)**

Technical Assistance in conducting a Midterm Review of the Strengthening Public Expenditure Management (SPEM) Project in Belize

Institution: Ministry of Finance
Country: Belize, Central America
Project: Strengthening Public Expenditure Management (SPEM)
Process ID: BL-L1038 – P00062
Deadline: August 22nd, 2025; 10:00 a.m. (Local Belize Time)

The Government of Belize has received loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the implementation of the Project – Strengthening Public Expenditure Management (SPEM) in Belize.

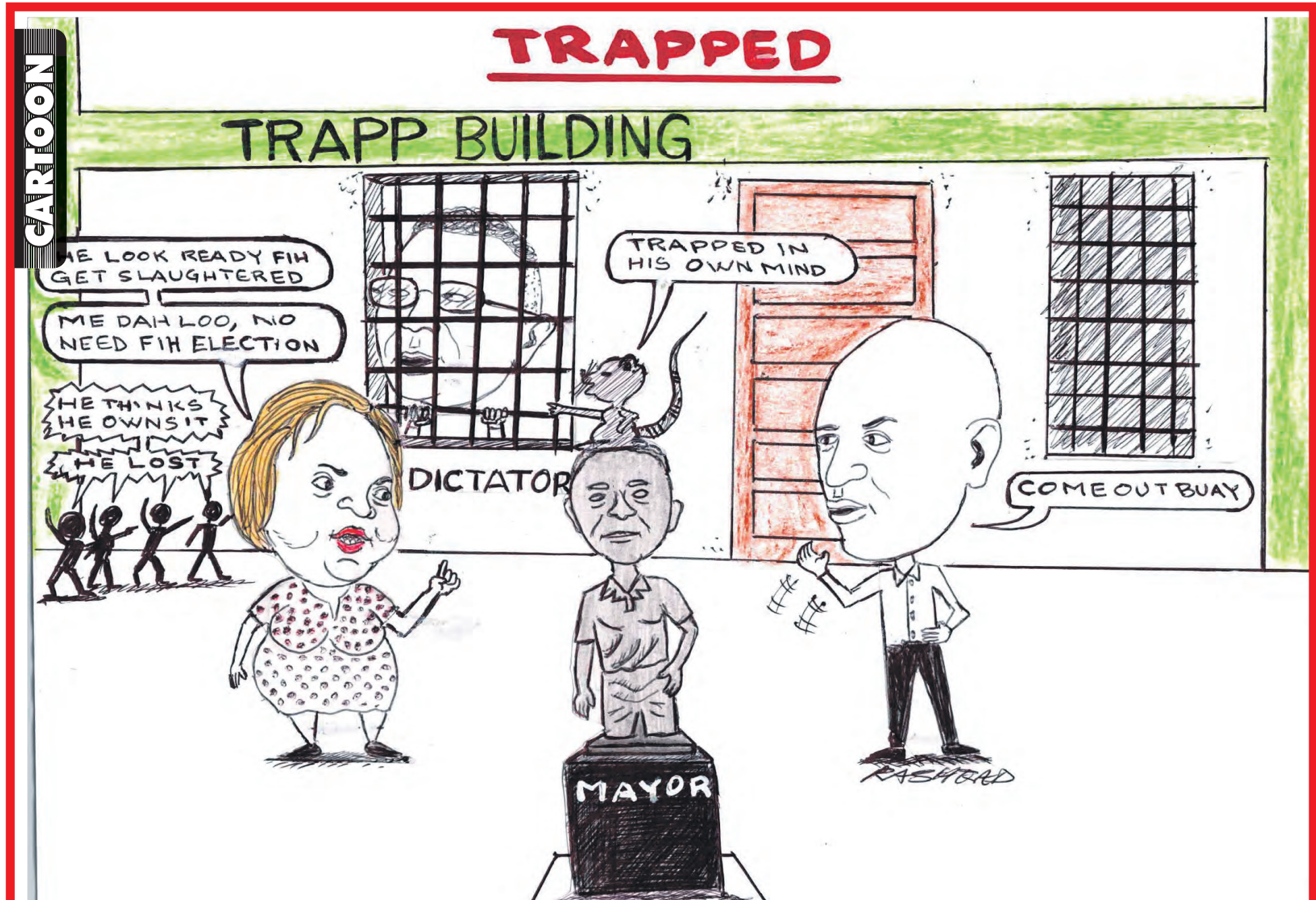
The Ministry of Finance invites eligible individuals to apply to undertake the following consultancy under the Project: “**Technical assistance in conducting a Midterm Review of SPEM Project in Belize**”.

Further details, including the required application template and full Terms of Reference, can be obtained online at <https://procurement.gov.bz/opportunities/> or by scanning the QR Code below. Interested individuals must provide information demonstrating that they have met the required qualifications and possess relevant experience to perform the Services.

ATTN: Ruby Pascascio
Sr. Procurement Specialist
Central Executing Unit
Ministry of Finance
2nd Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan, Belize
Tel: 501-822-4106
Email: procurement@ceu.mof.gov.bz



Ref: Midterm Review of SPEM Project in Belize (BL-L1038) - Your name



BELIZE NATIONAL DAY- EXPO 2025 OSAKA, JAPAN
NATIONAL DAY HALL, OSAKA, JAPAN
Prime Minister John Briceño
AUGUST 3

“One Belize, One Purpose: Ecosystem for Life”
 Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Honored Hosts, Ladies and Gentlemen:
 Konnichiwa.
 Good afternoon.

On behalf of the Government and people of Belize, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Japan, the organizers of Expo 2025 Osaka, and to all participating nations gathered here in a spirit of shared hope, progress, and global unity.

It is an honor to celebrate Belize’s National Day at this magnificent world exposition, a stage where our collective dreams for the future are not just imagined, but actively pursued. Expo 2025's powerful theme of Designing Future Society for Our Lives, resonates deeply with Belize’s own development path, rooted in sustainability, cultural preservation, and community empowerment.

Belize’s own national theme “One Belize, One Purpose: Ecosystem for Life” is a message that is more than aspirational, it is foundational. It reflects the heart of who we are as a people, unified in our diversity, rich in cultural heritage, and fiercely committed to protecting the ecosystems that sustain life.

As a small country with a large footprint in global conservation, Belize stands at the frontier of blue and green economies. We are guardians of the second-largest barrier reef in the world, vast tropical rainforests, and rich assortment biodiversity. But we are also stewards of something just as vital, our human and cultural ecosystems.

So today, I bring you greetings not just from a government, but from the people of Belize. Greetings from our Mestizo farmers, who still harvest the land with ancient wisdom; Greetings from our Maya communities, whose heritage stretches thousands of years into the past yet still guides our steps forward; Greetings from our Creole people, whose voices echo in every note of our music and every page of our history; and greetings from the proud Garifuna nation, whose resilience and spirituality remind us that culture, like nature, must be nurtured and preserved.

Each of these groups has contributed uniquely to the Belizean identity. Together, they form the social ecosystem that shapes how we live, how we lead, and how we care for each other. I invite you to visit our pavilion here at the Expo which showcases our culture beautifully through music, dance, food, artifacts, and the stories of our people. This is the essence of our theme’s **One Belize**.

But **One Purpose** drives us forward to build a nation that balances opportunity with sustainability, that empowers its youth through education and innovation, and that leads by example in protecting our planet, not only for ourselves but for future generations.

And so, as Prime Minister, I bring not only greetings I bring an invitation. An invitation to the world to partner with Belize in sustainable tourism and renewable energy that respects communities and ecosystems, in agricultural innovation that supports livelihoods and biodiversity, and in cultural exchanges that enrich our understanding of each other. All of this will also be showcased at our Belize Investment Summit 2025 this September 3-5 in Belize.

And yes, we welcome investment, but investment with integrity. We welcome trade, but trade that uplifts, not exploits. And we welcome collaboration, but always with respect for our people and their rights.

Together we can have a future where nature and humanity prosper side by side. We can build bridges between cultures, economies, and generations. And let us remember that in every corner of the world, from the Caribbean Sea to the Pacific Ocean, we share one planet, one purpose and one chance to get it right.

From the people of One Belize, united in One Purpose, committed to the Ecosystem that sustains our lives...

Arigatou gozaimasu.
 Thank you.
 And Happy Belize National Day!



Press Statement at Press Conference
Prime Minister John Briceño
Tokyo, Japan August 2025

Excellency, Prime Minister Ishiba,
 Members of the Media,
 Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by extending a heartfelt thanks to the Government and people of Japan for your warm hospitality.

My visit comes at an opportune time, as we celebrate the “Japan–Central America Friendship Year,” for it provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the strong partnership between our countries. Our countries are bound by shared values like democracy, peace, mutual respect, and a deep commitment to international cooperation.

Today, we reaffirmed our intention to further strengthen this relationship in key areas, including economic, cultural and educational exchange, as well as regional security. One of the most urgent priorities we addressed is climate change—a crisis that we live with daily. As a low-lying coastal state, Belize is among the most vulnerable countries in the world. Sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and biodiversity loss threaten our development and the wellbeing of our people.

Japan’s leadership on global climate action and its commitment to supporting developing countries, including Belize is appreciated and respected. Belize will join with Japan to advocate for a global system that delivers timely, accessible, and fair climate financing to the countries that need it most. Belize will work closely with Japan to promote climate resilience, particularly in areas such as renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and nature-based solutions.

Equally important, will work with Japan on the import work of preserving a rules-based international order. Belize fully supports Japan’s efforts to promote dialogue and diplomacy in addressing regional and global challenges. We look ahead, confident that the friendship between Belize and Japan will continue to grow as we advance our partnership and efforts to build a more sustainable, peaceful, and inclusive world.

I thank you.

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS
ISSUE NUMBER 11/2025

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$67,408,200.00.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository (CSD) of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Wednesday, 13 August 2025 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 12 November 2025.

Each tender must be for \$200 or a multiple of \$200. Bid yields must be submitted to five decimal places.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 8 August 2025.

The auction in the CSD will be opened from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday 13 August 2025.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website
(www.centralbank.org.bz)

23 July 2025

Back to School

FREE

Haircut

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

THURSDAY AUGUST 28, 2025

9AM - 2 PM

@ CENTRAL PARK, OWT





UNITED WOMEN'S GROUP
ORANGE WALK CENTRAL



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for the Development of Families & Children

VACANCY

Experienced Radiologist Needed

Davila's Clinic Ultrasound in Orange Walk Town is hiring a **Certified Radiologist** with a minimum of 5 years' experience.

Applicants must apply in person at # 16 Corozal Street and bring all relevant documents.

Competitive salary offered.

For more information call 302-2621.

VACANCY

Seeking experienced
Travelling Nurse Full-time Global Assignment

An experienced and dedicated advanced Nurse is urgently sought to provide private, full-time care for a patient who travels internationally. The Nurse will accompany the patient across multiple countries, monitor vital signs, administer medications and coordinate with local physicians as needed.

Contact us at jobs@sprinter.bz for more information.

Belize

INVESTMENT
SUMMIT 2025



SEPTEMBER 3-5

Sunset Caribe, San Pedro,
Ambergris Caye, Belize



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ADAM STEWART

Executive Chairman at Sandals Resort International

For more information:  +(501) 880-3737  info@investmentsummit.bz  investmentsummit.bz

Ready to Be a Winner? Get Your Tickets!

Try Your Luck And Win Big!!!

A large, colorful graphic for the 5/20 Lottery. In the center is a circular logo with a maroon border and yellow lights. Inside the circle, the words "FI WE" are written in yellow block letters with blue outlines, and "BOLEDO" is written in larger yellow block letters with blue outlines. Below this, in a white banner, it says "BELIZE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES LTD." with green leaves. Surrounding the central logo are five large, glossy balls: a yellow ball with the number 4, a green ball with the number 3, a red ball with the number 7, a blue ball with the number 5, and a white ball with the number 2. The background is dark blue with repeating "BELIZE GOVERNMENT LOTTERIES LTD." logos and a red and white geometric pattern in the bottom left corner.

Visit Our Website:
LOTTERIES.BZ

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that **Reynaldo E. Pott** is applying for a **Publican Special Liquor License** to be operated at **“Bellaquita Bar”** located in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Otilio A. Munoz** is applying for a **Restaurant Liquor License** to be operated at **“La Teraza Bar & Grill”** located on Goff Caye St., Orange Walk Town, Orange Walk District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Ru Zhen Liu** is applying for a **Shop Liquor License** to be operated at **“Y-M Shop”** located at #8078 M.M. St., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that **Beatris A. Torres** is applying for a **Beer Liquor License** to be operated at **“Duce’s Tranquil Drink Spot”** located in Spanish Town, Lord’s Bank area, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.



Belize Attends COSEFIN Meeting

Reaffirming Commitment to Regional Cooperation

August 4, 2025 - Belize participated in the 56th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Finance of Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic (COSEFIN), held on July 31, 2025, in Antigua Guatemala.

The delegation was led by Hon. Christopher Coye, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, and included Carlos Pol, CEO of the Ministry of Economic Transformation; H.E. Jose Alpuche, Belize’s Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala; and Ms. Cinnamon Bottaro, Belize’s representative to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Board of Executive Directors.



During the meeting, Belize reaffirmed its commitment to regional cooperation in fiscal policy, trade, and sustainable development. The delegation also held a bilateral meeting with Guatemala’s Minister of Public Finance, Hon. Jonathan Menkos, to discuss key areas of collaboration, including security, tourism, energy, and trade.

Belize’s incorporation into COSEFIN was formally approved at the 55th Regular Meeting on December 16, 2024. The country first participated in the Extraordinary Virtual Meeting on January 20, 2025. Belize’s active involvement in COSEFIN marks a significant step toward strengthening regional ties and advancing economic integration with Central America.(release)

OW CENTRAL
United Women’s Group



Meeting at the Central Office as the Work Continues. Area Representative PM John Briceño’s soldiers are always active serving his constituents as he leads the country.

Sporting Spirit
Orange Walk Central’s U13 Championship League

The Orange Walk Central U13 Championship League kicked off on Saturday August 2 at People’s Stadium! This U13 tournament is proudly sponsored by Hon. John Briceño, in collaboration with OWTC Mayor Ladrick Sheppard, & the OW Football Association.

The event began with a short parade & continues with exciting games on the field. When it’s game time at People’s Stadium, it will be a time to bring out the family.



PM Visiting Micro Businesses



This time it took him to downtown Belize City where he marketed for the Craboo Vendor Jerry at the corner of King and Albert.

PM Briceño: “When you support a micro business, the impact is direct to a Belizean family. Visit Jerry on the Alberts, and get your seasonal fruit and drink of choice.”



Noh Get Bite: Have Your House Sprayed!



Spraying kills the mosquitoes that cause Malaria. Allow vector control officers to spray the inside of your house.

What to expect: Vector control officers will let you know when they are coming to spray your house.

- 01 Put away all food, water and dishes in a closed area.
- 02 You and your family will be asked to wait outside while the house is being sprayed.
- 03 Stay outside for at least 1 hour after the house is sprayed.
- 04 The vector control officer will spray your wall. This is called residual spraying.
- 05 Do not wipe the walls. If you wipe the walls the mosquitoes that pitch on the walls will not die.



For more information converse with your Vector Control Officer.

Proud & Memorable Moments



At the Unveiling of a George Price Bust in the Hall of Heroes at OAS headquarters Washington DC on July 21, 2025



A Student's Thoughtful Moments

"SERVING BELIZE: BELIZEANS FIRST"

RT. HON. GEORGE C. PRICE	RT. HON. SAID W. MUSA	RT. HON. JOHN BRICEÑO
PIONEER ERA PRIME MINISTER:	TRANSFORMATIONAL ERA PRIME MINISTER:	CONSOLIDATIONAL ERA PRIME MINISTER:
* NATIONAL AWARENESS	* PEOPLE EXPERIENCE CONSCIENTIZATION	* RENEWAL OF THE EXPERIENCE "EVERY BELIZEAN FIRST."
* SELF GOVERNMENT	* EVERYBODY WANT TO BE A DELIZEAN	* RAPID EXPANSION OF BUSINESSES: SMALL AND LARGE
* INDEPENDENCE	* INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF BELIZE	* RAPID PAYMENTS OF LARGE OVERSEAS LOANS
* MORE HIGH SCHOOLS	* AWARENESS OF EDUCATION VIA "SPEAR"	* OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION FROM ABC TO UB
* FIRST SIXTH FORMS	* EXPANSION IN INDUSTRIALIZATION	* BELIZE RECOGNIZED AS THE MODEL BLUE ECONOMY OF THE WORLD
* MEMBER OF WORLD ORGANIZATIONS	* NEW NATIONAL AWARENESS	* ALL-TIME LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
* SOCIAL SECURITY	* N.H.I.	
* BELIZEANS ACQUIRE SELF RECOGNITION	* INTERFERTILIZATION OF ORGANIZATIONS	
ALL OUR PEOPLE FELT INCLUDED IN THE "NATIONAL MOVEMENT"		
CHANGE FROM FORESTOCRACY TO PLANTOCRACY		

LIQUOR LICENSE

NOTICES:

Notice is hereby given that Enna G. Ek is applying for a Malt & Cider Liquor License to be operated at "L & B Cool Spot" located on Texas Rd., Scotland Halfmoon Village, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

Notice is hereby given that Yuhuan Yang is applying for a Restaurant Liquor License to be operated at "Cheemin Restaurant" located at #18 C.A. Blvd., Belize City, Belize District under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Revised Edition 1980.

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September 3rd - 5th, 2025

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DATES: September 4th & 5th, 2025

sign up for the Pitch at this link

<https://tin.al/o9uS>

visit investmentsummit.bz for more info

PlanBelize 2.0

Prime Minister John Briceño, OW Central



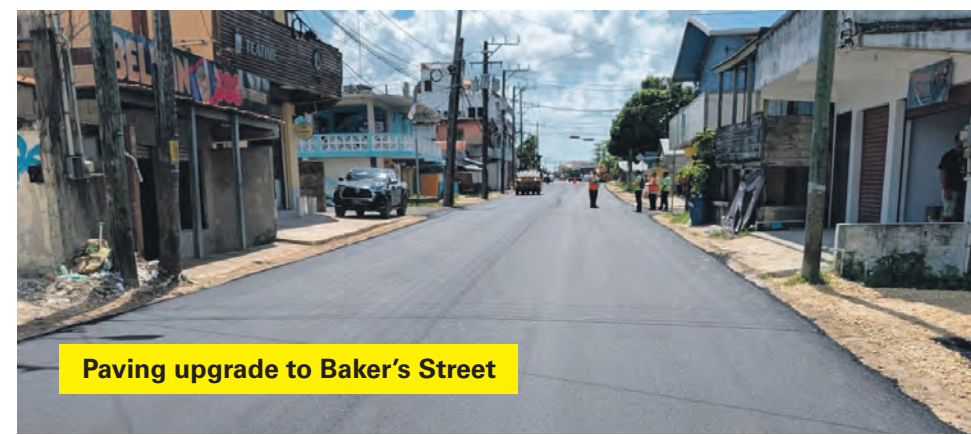
OW Town Council leads at Helpage



Work on Lover's Lane



Upgrade to successful Fiestarama



Paving upgrade to Baker's Street

Hon. Landy Habet, Cayo Northeast



501 Code and Fly Summer Camp



Market expansion closer to reality

Hon. Osmond Martinez, Toledo East



New Police Station discussed at site visit

Corozal Town Council



Climate Resilient Project discussed

Mayor Rigo explaining to consultants the important role the magoon drains play during heavy rainfall



Official Ceremonies in Belize City

Min. Kevin Bernard, (OW East) Health & Wellness



Newly Certified Community Health Workers OWD



Field Trip to Sandy Hunter Library



Gristock Street Upgrade



EMANCIPATION DAY 2025

Belize City Council's Eboe Town celebrations



Belmopan City Council, "Free me to the Sea"

Belize City Council



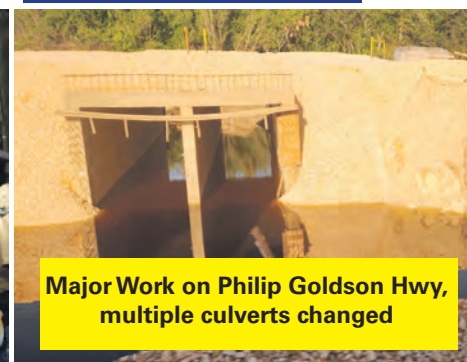
Very Successful MidWeek Winedown

Benque Viejo Town Council



Monthly General Inspection Parade for the Police

Hon. Julius Espat, MIDH



Major Work on Philip Goldson Hwy, multiple culverts changed



Summer Camps in Cayo South





Press Release
31 July 2025

Digi Powers Coastal Highway with 4G LTE Advanced Mobile Network



Belize City, Belize: Digi is proud to announce the successful expansion of its 4G LTE Advanced network along Belize's Coastal Highway, delivering faster, more reliable mobile coverage to this critical national roadway.

With the activation of new cell sites at Soldier Creek and La Democracia II, Digi now ensures seamless connectivity for travelers and residents in nearby communities, including Hope Creek, Gales Point Manatee, and Mullins River. This one and a half million dollar investment marks a significant step in Digi's ongoing mission to bridge digital gaps across Belize, supporting the nation's infrastructure modernization and climate resilience efforts. As the Coastal Highway evolves into a safer, more efficient corridor, our 4G LTE Advanced coverage turns miles of roadway into opportunities: safer navigation, uninterrupted business communication, and instant access to emergency services.

Aligned with Belize's national development goals, Digi remains dedicated to bridging connectivity gaps and accelerating the country's digital future. This milestone reinforces the company's pledge to deliver innovative, inclusive, and dependable mobile services wherever Belizeans live, work, and travel.





BELIZE PORT AUTHORITY

Mile 4, George Price Highway
P.O. Box 633, Belize City, Belize
Tel. (501) 222-5662 / 5663 / 5667
Email: bzportauth@btl.net Website: www.portauthority.bz

BELIZE PORT AUTHORITY
INVITATION TO TENDER

Date Issued: 25 July 2025

Tender Submission Deadline: 5 August 2025, 4:00 PM

Introduction

The Belize Port Authority (BPA) invites qualified boat builders and suppliers to submit sealed bids for the provision and delivery of two (2) enforcement vessels. The enforcement vessels must meet the minimum specifications outlined in the attached Terms of Reference (TOR). Interested suppliers are asked to review the TOR for full technical details and submission requirements.

Background and Scope of Work

The BPA is tasked with enforcing maritime laws and ensuring safety, security, and environmental protection in Belizean waters. To strengthen its enforcement capabilities, the BPA requires two new patrol vessels built to the specifications outlined herein. The required vessels must meet the technical requirements and specifications detailed in the attached TOR.

Eligibility & Qualification Requirements

Interested bidders must demonstrate:

- Proven experience in supplying and commissioning similar vessels.
- Capacity to deliver within the agreed timeframe.
- Warranty and after-sales service capabilities.
- Compliance with applicable Belizean and international standards.

Submission Requirements

- All bids must contain:
 - o Cover Letter
 - o Company profile & references.
 - o Technical proposal (compliance with TOR).
 - o Financial proposal (price breakdown).
 - o Delivery timeline
 - o Warranty & service terms
- Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes, clearly marked: “Tender: BPA/2025(1) – Enforcement Vessels”
- Bids must be addressed and delivered to:

The Acting Ports Commissioner
Belize Port Authority
Mile 4, George Price Highway
P.O. Box 633, Belize City, Belize
- Deadline for submission: 5 August 2025 at 4:00 PM.
- Late submissions will not be considered.

Evaluation Criteria

Bids will be evaluated based on compliance with the TOR, price competitiveness, delivery schedule, warranty & after-sales service, and past performance.

Terms & Conditions

- BPA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and is not obligated to accept the lowest or any offer
- Prices must be quoted in Belize Dollars (BZD), inclusive of all applicable taxes, delivery, commissioning costs.
- Payment terms will be in accordance with BPA’s standard contract terms.
- Any conflicts of interest must be declared.

Declaration

By submitting a bid, the bidder agrees to the terms and conditions of this invitation and certifies the accuracy of the information provided.

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Western Union



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Belize
Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP)
Loan No.: 9347 BE
Project ID No.: P172592
Assignment Title: E-Extension
Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): BZ-SIF-487519-CS-INDV

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) is for a suitable qualified E-EXTENSION FOR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND ENTERPRISE (MAFSE). The e-extension officer will ensure the development of an effective communication channel and function in providing agriculture-related information on climate-smart agriculture practices, best agricultural practices, market prices, weather forecasts and services in the CRESAP target production areas. The E-Extension Officer will work directly under the supervision of the Director of Extension. All work conducted, including reports will be overseen by the Extension Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise (MAFSE) and the Climate Resilient & Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP) team.

The GOB has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the implementing agency for the project and the BSIF is seeking to recruit an individual to fill the position of E-Extension for MAFSE.

The consultancy is expected to be for an initial period of Eighteen (18) months commencing September 2025.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained by submitting a request in writing via e-mail to procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org. The Belize Social Investment Fund now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (such as cover letter, Curriculum Vitae etc.).

- Minimum Mandatory Requirements *(Required) Qualifications
- Bachelor’s degree in Agronomy, Agro-ecology, Agro-meteorology, Economics, or any other field related to the assignment. (max 10 points)
- General Experience
- Three (3) years’ working experience in Extension Service delivery (max 20 points).

If these minimum requirements are not met, candidates will not be considered for the process

- Additional Requirements (Desirable) Specific Experience
- Minimum of 3 years’ experience in crop or livestock production. (max 20 points)
 - Minimum of 2 years’ experience in coordinating Extension Education & Extension Service activities. (max 20 points)
 - At least 3 years’ experience working in a project environment (max 10 points)
 - Minimum of 2 years’ experience in the application of ICT applications/innovations in extension service delivery. (max 20 points)

Minimum total points required to be considered for the assignment is 75 points.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 0800 to 1600 hours Belize Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by August 15, 2025 at 17:00 hours Belize Time.

Belize Social Investment Fund
Attn: Orlando Coc, Procurement Assistant
P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Building C, Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone +501-822-0239
Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Belize
Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP)
Loan No.: 9347 BE
Project ID No.: P172592
Assignment Title: Food Technologist for Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Enterprise (MAFSE)
Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): BZ-SIF-501367-CS-INDV

The Government of Belize has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) is for a suitable Food Technologist for Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Enterprise (MAFSE). The overall objective of the assignment: To develop standard operating procedures (SOP’s) for at least three (3) value added products from market led research following both local and regional standards for value added products.

The GOB has appointed the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) as the implementing agency for the project and the BSIF is seeking to recruit an individual to fill the position of Food Technologist for Ministry of Agriculture Food Security and Enterprise (MAFSE).

The consultancy is expected to be for a period of eighteen (18) months commencing September 2025. The individual consultant shall be stationed at the Research , Development and Innovation Center, Central Farm, Cayo District.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained by submitting a request in writing via e-mail to procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org.

The Belize Social Investment Fund now invites eligible individuals (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (such as cover letter, Curriculum Vitae etc.).

- Minimum Mandatory Requirements *(Required)
- *Qualifications
- Master’s degree or higher in Food Science/Chemistry (max 25 points)
- General Experience
- Four years’ working experience in food science, chemistry, food processing, quality assurance (max 20 points)

If these minimum requirements are not met, the candidates will not be considered for the process

- Additional Requirements (Desirable)
- At least two products developed along with SOP’s etc. (max 20 points)
 - At least two years working in the food processing laboratory or processing plant (max 15 points)
 - At least one-year experience working in rural communities (max 10 points)
 - At least three assignments coordinating and conducting training to small groups (max 10 points)

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” July 2016 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection of Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours, i.e. 0800 to 1600 hours Belize Time.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by August 29th, 2025 at 17:00 hours Belize Time.

Belize Social Investment Fund
Attn: Ms. Jahnina Reyes, Procurement Officer
P.O. Box 459, 4253 Hummingbird Highway, Building C, Belmopan City, Belize
Telephone +501-822-0239
Email: procurement.cresap@sifbelize.org cc : jahnina.reyes@sifbelize.org



Belize Water Services Ltd.

#7 Central American Blvd
Belize City, Belize

+501-222-4757 Ext. 1408

pr@bws.com.bz

www.bws.bz

No. 202508-06-1

NOTICE TO MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS

Belize Water Services Limited reminds minority shareholder that the 24th Annual General Meeting of Belize Water Services Limited will be on **Friday, August 29, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at SCA Mercy Center Auditorium in Belize City.**

The Notice of Meeting and Shareholder Circular have been emailed to shareholders.

Please note that dividends have been paid via direct transfer to your bank or credit union account on file.

If you or your authorized proxy plan to attend the meeting in person, kindly bring along a valid ID. If you have any queries regarding this meeting or any share related matter, please feel free to contact us at **shareholderinfo@bws.com.bz; Telephone: 222-5155** or send a **WhatsApp message to 613-5382.**

BWS - Delivering Water and More...

VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN

Belize to Reap Transformational Benefits From Regional ISA Energy Meeting

By Hilly Bennett

Belize is being represented by Dr. Leroy Almendarez, CEO of the Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy & Logistics and Mr. Ryan Cobb, Energy Director, at the SEVENTH MEETING OF THE ISA REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION in Santiago, Chile August 4-6, 2025. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was conceived as a coalition of solar resource-rich countries to address their special energy needs.

It was launched on 30 November 2015 by India and France to implement the Paris Agreement. The importance of the meeting and the region's role in the global clean energy transition was emphasized by Mr. Ashish Khanna, Director General, ISA stating, "The Seventh Regional Committee Meeting in Santiago marks a significant moment for accelerating solar energy deployment across the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region." Additionally, the Director General said, "The meeting will spotlight the importance of platforms adopted to context for the LAC region, be it the youth innovation-led Solar-X that would announce 15 winners of transformative ideas within the LAC region by COP 30, or for the SIDS platform for aggregate procurement for Caribbean island countries...."

Dr. Almendarez in his presentation at the meeting, considers that,

"The meeting will spotlight the importance of platforms adopted to context for the LAC region, be it the youth innovation-led Solar-X that would announce 15 winners of transformative ideas within the LAC region by COP 30, or for the SIDS platform for aggregate procurement for Caribbean island countries...."

Dr. Almendarez in his presentation at the meeting, considers that, "The SIDS Platform presents us with a turning point. It is more than an initiative. It is a lifeline-anchored in digital innovation, financial accessibility, and shared vision". Almendarez continued saying "The Platform's holistic approach, from project preparation to financing and capacity-building, directly addresses our barriers: financing gaps, institutional constraints, and limited access to scalable clean technologies." An important component of the PlanBelize 2.0 mandate is to increase Belize's power generation,

including a major solar project funded by the Saudi Arabian Government with an aim for energy independence and export. Some of the key initiatives are 60 MW solar deployment, 40 MW Battery Energy Storage (BESS) and EU-funded mini-grids rollout. However, as CEO Almendarez noted "But to scale these solutions, we need enabling ecosystems-and this is where the SIDS Platform is poised to deliver value."

Belize is positioned to benefit from its participation in the meeting, unlocking a range of opportunities which include:

- * Access to ISA's Catalytic financing mechanism to support solar infrastructure development.

- * Capacity-building programs for government agencies and energy professionals to enhance technical expertise.

- * Opportunities for youth entrepreneurship and job creation within the solar energy sector.

- * Advancement in digital transformation, including the development of smart grids and energy data platforms.

- * Engagement in discussions on emerging technologies such as green hydrogen, energy storage and critical minerals.

- * Improve access to solar technologies and strengthened regional integration partnerships.

- * Strengthening of policy framework and institutional reforms to attract private sector investment.

- * Promotion of a just, inclusive energy transition aligned with Belize's climate and sustainability goals.

As stated in a government press release it indicates that "As an active and committed member of the International Solar Alliance, Belize remain steadfast in its pursuit of a secure, resilient, and clean energy future. The insights and collaboration forged during this meeting are expected to lay a strong foundation for transformative change across Belize's energy sector and the wider Latin America and Caribbean region."

In a pointed statement to the participants of the meeting, Dr. Almendarez said "Colleagues, our goals are clear: affordable and clean energy for all; modern grids that withstand the storms we face; and energy systems that serve our people-not strain them." Concluding, "Let us not leave this room with just good intentions. Let us leave with clear deliverables. Let this session be remembered not just as a discussion, but as a decisive step towards energy justice for all of us."

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Newspaper**

HON. GILROY USHER
DELIVERING
ON PROMISED
STREETS IN PORT

Dozens of residents of Port Loyola were filled with happiness Monday evening when the Hon. Gilroy Usher Area Representative for the division began building necessary streets in the community when with the support of MIDH.

The first streets under construction will connect Jane Usher Blvd. with the street of Pastor Galvez. This will make it much easier for residents of the area to travel freely in the community throughout the day or night.

The construction of the street will also result in increased development in the neighborhood as more persons will take advantage of the new infrastructure to fill their land and build their own homes among other things.

When completed the other new streets will enable Mr. Clifton Perez, Mr. Elstwin Willoughby, Mr. Robert Sinclair, Jr, and Mr. Robert Crown among others to have easy, safe, and unimpeded access to their homes 24/7.

The Hon. Usher is an excellent example of planBelize representatives who work from dusk to dawn and beyond. One might recall how a puss in boots tried to indecently attempt to forge signatures to force a recall. It is laughable how that corrupt person was caught in his sea side works trying to stiff the Belizeans from their beach. Hon. Usher outworks everyone who tries to sign up to run in Port.



Que No Te Piquen: Rocíe su casa!



Rociar su casa mata a los mosquitos que causan Dengue. Permita que los expertos en control de vectores rocíen el interior de su casa.

Esté Atento:
Los expertos en control de vectores le indicarán cuando pueden visitarle para rociar su casa.

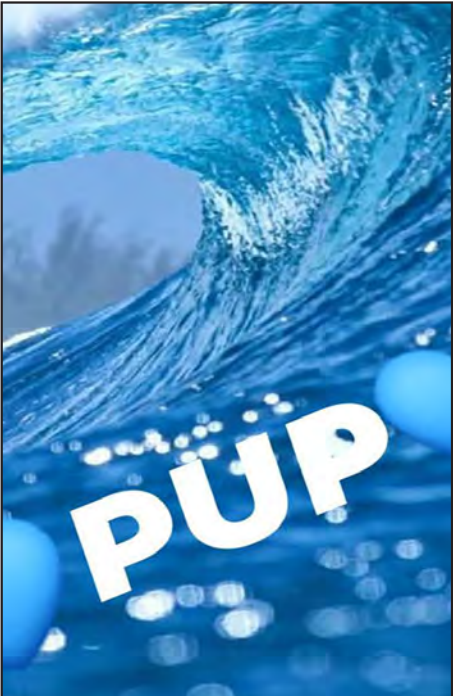
- 01 Por favor, saqué sus alimentos, agua y platos afuera.
- 02 Por favor, que salga toda la familia de la casa mientras esta siendo rociada.
- 03 Quedesé afuera esperando una hora después que haya sido rociada.
- 04 Verá una nube de humo dentro de la casa. Eso se llama nebulización térmica.
- 05 Habrá un fuerte olor durante 1 hora, pero el olor desaparecerá.



Para más información, por favor comunicarse con el experto en control de vectores.



THE STRENGTHENING OF THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DENGUE AND MALARIA IN BELIZE PROJECT



Emancipation Day 2025
Address at Official Ceremonies
Hon. Francis Fonseca, Minister of Culture
Government House, Belize City
August 1



Good morning, everyone. What a beautiful day in our beautiful Belize. Distinguished guests, my fellow Belizeans, we gather this morning on the grounds of property once owned and occupied by colonizers and slave owners.

To commemorate the 191st Anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the British Empire and the 187th anniversary of the abolition of the system of apprenticeship.

Today is Emancipation Day. As a nation, we collectively and officially declared this date as a public and bank holiday, four years ago. It was a proud moment of respect and reconciliation in our young nation's history. Enslaved Africans were forcibly and cruelly ripped from their families, communities and countries and brought to this region for labor.



This labor led to the foundation of contemporary Belizean society. Out of these hardships came resilience and resistance that formed the communities we know throughout the Belize River Valley.

"If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong."

A beleaguered Abraham Lincoln wrote those words to his Kentucky critics following the Emancipation Proclamation. But let us be clear, emancipation was not a gift. It was achieved through the resistance, rebellion, and resilience of enslaved Africans and their descendants.



The great American intellectual and abolitionist Frederick Douglass wrote, "From whence came the spirit, I do not know. I resolved to fight, suiting my action to the resolution. And as I did so, I rose. My long-crushed spirit rose. Cowardice departed. Bold defiance took its place. And I now resolved that however long I might remain a slave in form, the day had passed forever when I could be a slave in fact."

Today on Emancipation Day 2025, we recall and reaffirm the words of Lincoln and Douglas, and we look to the future with hope and promise. For us in Belize, Emancipation Day is about remembrance, education, and cultural pride.

The legacy of the transatlantic slave trade and of British colonial rule help us to understand the historical roots of racial and social inequalities that still persist today. We must continue the important work of decolonizing our society and, in particular, our education system. Our schools and communities must learn about African heritage. This is how we foster cultural pride and national unity.

Emancipation was not an end. It is an ongoing process as we work to dismantle existing systems of oppression. Today there are new forms of slavery, colonialism and human trafficking. We witness each day on our televisions the horror and evil of war and exploitation in Sudan, in Gaza, Ukraine, the senseless killing of women and children. We also bear witness to the rape, torture and exploitation of migrants in search of a better life by international criminal organizations.

On this Emancipation Day 2025, we resoundingly call for an end to war and hate. Belize stands for peace, justice and the right to self-determination. We must continue to make meaningful investments in education, health and housing. We must continue and expand our progressive land distribution program. We must continue to grow and build an economy that provides real opportunities for everyone to participate, especially our women and youth.

This year, Belize celebrates 44 years of independence under the team Stronger Together, Rising Forever. Belize is what we make of it.

In the words of Marcus Garvey, chance has never yet satisfied the hope of a suffering people. Action, self-reliance, the vision of self and the future have been the only means by which the oppressed have seen and realized the light of their own freedom.

Let us love and build a Belize we can all be proud of.

Happy Emancipation Day.
Thank you.

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**Historical Perspective
Belize African Resistance
and African Greatness
Presented by Director
Rolando Cocom
Institute for Social &
Cultural Research, NICH**

Today, as we gather for Emancipation Day 2025, I want to focus on something that gets mentioned but not always explored: Belize African Resistance and African Greatness

These statements are profound and often overlooked because the story of African people and their descendants has often been told as one of subjugation and without the history of Africans before European enslavement.

We know that over 12 million Africans were forcibly brought to the Caribbean and the Americas. This was not a passive migration. It was an economic and political operation that involved European empires, built on violence, enforced through fear, and justified by an entire system of ideological supremacist beliefs. The legacies of this chapter still unfold in our world today.

Europeans worked hard to erase African identity. And even the way we talk about that time today shows how deep it has distorted our understanding of history. We are told to call it the Atlantic slave trade, not the large-scale chattel-property enslavement of African people by those who benefited from it. We are taught to say slave owners and slaves, instead of enslavers and enslaved Africans. We often hear the term "slave rebellions" but these were not random acts. They were acts of resistance by Africans fighting to regain their freedom, their humanness. Belize's history records at least four such uprisings, the last of which was led by Will and Sharper in 1820 and which included over 50 others as they fled into western Belize.

These are not small distinctions. They show who gets to define history and how much we have accepted certain terms without thinking about their implications. Europe justified it all by spreading a story that Africa had no civilization. That it was backward. That it had no history. They called it a Dark Continent.

But nothing could be further from the truth: Africa is the cradle of humanity. It is where the earliest humans have been found. The earliest tools, the domestication of crops and animals, the development of language and societies began in Africa.



The African continent is massive: 54 countries today, around 2,000 indigenous languages, it has incredible geographic and cultural diversity. The Kingdoms of Great Zimbabwe, Ghana, Mali, and Songhai were already trading, governing, and building while Europe, according to their own historians, was living in what they term the ‘Dark Ages’.

Mansa Musa, the ruler of Mali, is still known today as one of the wealthiest individuals in West African history.

During his expedition into Egypt, he and his caravan spent and gave away so much gold that it drove down the price of gold for over ten years.

Queen Nzinga of Ndongo, modern day Angola, fought fiercely against the Portuguese who sought to trade and enslave Africans.

So why don’t we hear that side, the African side of history more often?

Because for the settler-colonial economies to function, the native population, in this case the African people and their greatness had to be buried. Because by erasing their identity, their culture, they would be easier to control. But it wasn’t lost. Although, African culture was disrupted and transformed, African cultural continuities endured in Belize.



Let’s talk about Eboe Town. Let us celebrate Eboe Town. According to historian Aondofe Iyo, Eboe Town was located around what’s now South and Berkeley Streets. It was mostly swamp, but it was home to many Africans, free and enslaved Africans, living in huts and holding on to their traditions.

Even after drumming was banned in 1791, the rich, tonal range of the drums could not be stopped. By 1806, colonial officials and enslavers were deeply worried about the drumming and gathering happening there at night. Drumming, dance and masquerades were cultural memory and transmission.

These were organizing spaces. Official records admitted that these gatherings continued and were indicative of various African ethnicities. That’s how strong the cultural resistance was.

Eboe Town burned in 1819, but the memory remained in the records and oral traditions. And it was not the only space like that. Along the riverbanks and in the yards next to enslavers’ homes – from Freetown Sibun to Malanti, from Boom to Duck Run and so many other places across Belize, African culture was present.

We also find names linked to specific ethnic groups: Angola Will, Guinea Sam, Congo Jack, Munding Pope. These were not just nicknames. They were markers of African identity. There were about 2,000 to 3,000 Africans in Belize at the height of British control in the early 1800s – many of them resisting, accommodating, and living in ways they best could.

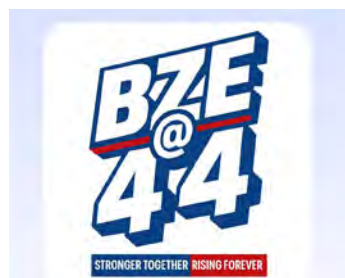
And there are also references to places: Quamina Creek, Quashie Banner Creek, Nago Bank, to name a few.

Today, we pay tribute to those who honor this memory: to the UBAD Educational Foundation – who are also re-igniting these continuities in African traditions, to the National Kriol Council, to the National Garifuna Council, to Eboe Town and other communities, the many men and women who firmly and fervently believe that our shared African culture and history in Belize are not just important but very essential.

At NICH, our goal is to continue forging partnerships to further this vital work of acknowledging our people, our cultures, our stories.

The hope is that we continue to bring together citizens together to recognize the value and necessity for the teaching and learning of African history – to allow us to understand who we are, how we relate to each other and our environment.

To honor Emancipation Day is not only to remember the struggle: it is to ensure that African greatness, too long buried, is taught, celebrated, and lived.



LETTERS TO THE Editor

Dear Editor,

As a Belizean parent preparing to send my child back to school, I want to express my deep appreciation for the GST-free weekends introduced by the government. This initiative has truly made a difference for families like mine, especially during these tough economic times due to the inflated cost of living globally.

From notebooks to uniforms and shoes, every dollar saved counts. With the rising cost of living, back-to-school shopping can be stressful, but the GST-free weekends provide much-needed relief. It allowed me to stretch my budget further and ensure my child has everything they need to start the school year prepared and confident.

This is more than just about saving money — it shows a government that listens and takes practical steps to ease the burden on working families. I encourage my fellow parents to take full advantage of these opportunities and shop wisely.

To the administration, thank you for putting this measure in place. I hope this becomes a permanent annual event and even expands in the future. Every child deserves the tools to succeed in school, and every parent deserves the peace of mind knowing they can provide for their child without breaking the bank.

Sincerely,

A Grateful Belizean Parent



Dear Editor,

As a young Belizean preparing to return to tertiary-level studies, I want to take a moment to encourage my fellow students across the country. Let us step into this new academic year with a positive mindset and clear focus on our goals.

Yes, school can be tough. Balancing classes, work, family, and financial pressures is never easy — especially in these times. But we must remember why we started. We are investing in ourselves, in our futures, and in the betterment of our nation. Education is not just a personal journey — it is a national necessity.

There will be days when motivation is low and stress is high, but do not give up. Lean on your support systems, manage your time wisely, and take care of your mental health. Each assignment, each lecture, and each late-night study session brings us one step closer to our dreams.

Let us support one another, celebrate our wins, and push through the tough days. Belize needs bright minds, strong voices, and dedicated leaders. We are the ones we have been waiting for.

So, as we head back to campus or log into our online classes, let us do so with confidence. Keep your head up, eyes forward, and your purpose strong.

Sincerely,

A Determined Student



BELIZE’S NEW BANKNOTE SERIES: NEW LOOK, SAME VALUE

On Monday, August 4, 2025, the Central Bank of Belize (CBB) circulated the new family of banknotes, which the CBB emphasized celebrates the nation’s heritage while introducing enhanced security features, ensuring the integrity of the new currency. De La Rue International Limited at the unveiling proffered “The new Belizean dollar series will now incorporate the latest innovation in security threads with a PUREIMAGE holographic thread on the \$2, and \$5; and an IGNITE thread, alongside a holographic stripe on the \$10, \$20, \$50, & \$100. Under UV light ENHANCED GEMINI patterns will appear on all denominations.” The features will upgrade the new banknote series with the latest anti-counterfeiting technology.

CBB unveiled the design of the new notes on 23rd January 2025, which was printed by De La Rue and has campaigned nationwide to sensitize the general public, including schools, businesses, and financial institutions as commented on by the Governor of the Central Bank, Kareem Michael. Governor Michael told the media “We have worked diligently to ensure a smooth and secure rollout. We want every citizen to feel confident in using the new banknotes.”

However, change is not embraced easily and many are questioning the replacement of the monarch with Belize’s National Heroes, George Price and Philip Goldson. Others insist that the money will be devalued. Some even say the notes resemble the peso. Notwithstanding, the negative criticism, many believe that it is an affirmation of our Belizeanness and the Belizean identity. One individual posted on the social media platform “The change adds symbolic and cultural value by placing Belizean national heroes on the currency.”

As to the Leader of the country and Minister of Finance, Prime Minister John Briceno’s take on the new look of Belize’s new banknote series “We are just making the Belize dollar more Belizean”. Adding that “This is one more way for us to remember the sacrifices of those who came before us”.

Importantly, though there are changes with the new banknotes, they remain legal tender and are backed by the Central Bank. The dollar is still a dollar and is pegged to the US dollar at the exchange rate of BZD \$2 to USD \$1. Also, the old bill value stands until they are completely recalled over time via deposit back to a bank and taken out of circulation.

“Money is not just currency. It is confidence. And Belize’s confidence is now even more visible.”

The 20-dollar banknote, for example, “features Belize’s jungle life imagery, along with portrait of the Rt. Hon. George Cadle Price, national hero of Belize.

The jungle life imagery includes:

- Baird’s Tapir, national animal of Belize, featured as the front center image
- Blue Morpho Butterfly, featured on the holographic foil stripe
- Jaguar (Panthera onca), featured as the back center image
- Green Iguana, featured as the back right image” – Central Bank Website

For more visit: <https://www.centralbank.org.bz/home/core-functions/currency/currency-notes/2005-issue>

By Hilly Bennett

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

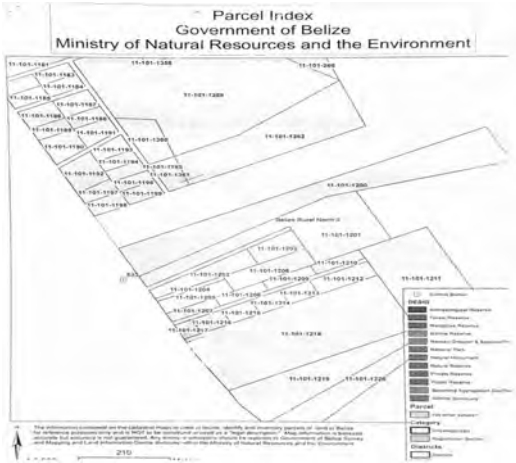
*** Second Offer ***

BY ORDER OF THE CHARGEЕ HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED, a Licensed Public Auctioneer will sell on site the following property at the time as listed.

At Parcel 1201 Biscayne Village, Belize District on Friday, August 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT piece or parcel of land comprising 5.323 Hectare(s) being Parcel 1201, Block 11 in the Belize Rural North II Registration Section situate in the Biscayne Village, Belize District, Belize TOGETHER with all buildings and erections standing and being thereon, the freehold property of JING FENG LEE.



All sales are strictly cash and deemed final. For more information contact:

HOLY REDEEMER CREDIT UNION LIMITED

1 HYDE’S LANE, BELIZE CITY, BELIZE

Phone: (501) 280-5644

Fax: (501) 223-0738

E-mail: foreclosures@hrcubelize.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hrcuforeclosure/>

Belizean Wins Heats in World Aquatics in Singapore



Belizean swimmer Davia Richardson won her heat in the 100-meter freestyle at the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore, achieving a time of 1 minute, .74 seconds. In running and swimming there are many races before you make it to the BIG finals. Belizeans have been used to dismal results in heats. Marion showed us that we can. Simone reaffirmed that with work and commitment, Belizeans can excel on the world stage.

Regionally, we are Davids for real, standing up to Mexico, Brazil, Suriname and our Central American neighbours in several diciplines and at the younger age group. Whenever we beat/compete with a mainland country, our 400k is standing up to a pool of millions as most countries of the world have millions. In our Belizean resilient hearts, we can beat anyone. But yes we have lots more work ahead but we have seen that it is possible.

Davia did not qualify for the semi-finals at the World Aquatic event, finishing 57th overall but a GIANT CONGRATULATIONS is in order. Doubly so since earlier in the competition, she also won her heat and set a personal best in the 100-meter butterfly. Born July 16, 2008, seventeen-year-old Davia has much ahead of her. She does practise in the USA and competes proudly under the Belizean flag.

2nd Best Spiker 2025 Panamericana U-23 Men's Cup Team Belize's Eleazar Mejía Hosted in Guatemala on July 29 to August 3

The tournament was won by the Dominican Republic with the USA taking Silver. Both teams were in the same group with Belize. IN the end we were 7th of 8 teams as we best Suriname in the final match.

To Fatima Martinez and all of Volleyball, Belize and the government is beside you. Keep on doing your repetitions as your voice is loud and your play has been noticed.

The Hon. Anthony Mahler is full heartedly behind sports and as you know the ardour to make improvements is a long journey. His ministry is beside Volleyball and all the other sports much more than ever before. Again, Congratulations to TEAM EFFORT! Now the practise continues.



PM Announces Appointment of Ambassadors of Belize Belmopan, August 7, 2025.

Hon. John Briceño, Prime Minister of Belize and Minister of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation, Civil Aviation, and E-Governance, announced the appointment of Ambassadors, Ambassadors Designate, and other Diplomatic Staff who will be serving at the various Embassies and Missions of Belize and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Headquarters:

The following new appointments will be made:

- H.E. Katherine Meighan, Ambassador to the Republic of China (Taiwan)
- H.E. Nestor Mendez, Ambassador to the United States of America
- Mr. Joshua Pott, Minister Counselor to the United States of America
- H.E. Janine Coye Felson, Permanent Representative/Ambassador to the United Nations
- Dr. Kenrick Williams, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations
- H.E. Lou-Anne Burns Martinez, Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador
- H.E. Cherie Nisbet, High Commissioner to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- H.E. Perlita Aldana, Ambassador to the Republic of Cuba
- Mr. Luis Salazar, Chargé d'Affaires to the Republic of Cuba
- H.E. Dr. Henry Canton, Ambassador for Trade to the Caribbean Community
- H.E. Alfonso Gahona, Ambassador at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- H.E. Ayesha Borland, Ambassador at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The following ambassadors remain:

- H.E. Oscar Arnold, Ambassador to the United Mexican States
- H.E. Jose Alpuche, Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala
- H.E. Dr. Gianni Avila, Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the European Union
- H.E. Gale Miller Garnett, High Commissioner to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
- H.E. Lawrence Sylvester, Non-Resident Ambassador to the Caribbean Community

The Ambassadors are currently in Belize participating in the annual Heads of Mission Encounter (HOME) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from August 6-8, 2025, and will be traveling to take up their assignments in the coming days. The appointments are effective August 1, 2025.

Government of Belize Reaffirms Facts on SARA Transition Amid Misleading Claims Belmopan, August 6, 2025.

The Government of Belize (GOB) notes recent public statements and media commentary containing misinformation regarding the management of the Belize Tax Service Department (BTSD) and its transition to a Semi-Autonomous Revenue Authority (SARA).

Contrary to allegations that the BTSD is poorly managed, records show that the Department has consistently met and exceeded the tax collection targets set by the Ministry of Finance and has performed strongly against international benchmarks, including the Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT). The BTSD is recognized both nationally and internationally as a leading tax administration. Since its formation, the Department has invested in over 250 different training programs at all levels, demonstrating a sustained commitment to professional development, capacity building, and empowering staff to deliver improved services. However, these achievements are not static.

Taxpayer satisfaction and operational efficiency require continuous innovation and initiatives to ensure that the BTSD continues to evolve and meet the changing needs of taxpayers and the economy.

Cabinet formally approved the transition to a SARA in October 2022 as part of its broader tax modernization strategy. This priority reform was publicly reaffirmed in the Prime Minister's 2025/2026 Budget Speech, delivered on May 12, 2025, underscoring Government's commitment to strengthening tax administration, improving service delivery, and supporting Belize's long-term economic development.

This reform is being implemented with the technical support of the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC), whose consultants bring extensive regional expertise in revenue authority reform. CARTAC also guided the successful amalgamation of the former Income Tax and General Sales Tax Departments into the BTSD in August 2019, one of Belize's most significant public sector reforms.

It is important to note that this amalgamation was successfully completed prior to the signing of the Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) Strengthening of Tax Administration loan agreement in November 2019. This demonstrates that Belize's tax modernization efforts, supported by CARTAC's expertise, were well underway even before external financing was secured. The IDB loan further accelerated these reforms through funding for the procurement of a new Revenue Management System for tax administration operations and the IRIS Belize Portal, which enhances interaction between taxpayers and the BTSD. The IRIS Portal provides a secure and personalized platform for taxpayers to manage their tax accounts, file returns, make payments, and track compliance in real time, significantly improving the ease of doing business with the tax administration.

In line with the Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) policies, the Strengthening of Tax Administration project has undergone two successful independent external evaluations. These evaluations underscore the transformational impact the project has had on Belize's tax administration and fiscal landscape, including:

- An increase in the tax-to-GDP ratio from 12.8% in 2019 to 15.6% in 2024, without any increase in the rates of business tax or general sales tax;
- The successful rollout of the Revenue Management System (RMS) and the IRIS Belize Portal, enabling e-filing, e-payments, and other digital services;
- Strengthened institutional governance and the implementation of risk-based compliance models;
- Extensive staff training and modernization of internal controls;
- Alignment of reforms with national priorities under Plan Belize and long-term fiscal sustainability objectives.

The transition to SARA builds on this foundation and will further advance Belize's modernization efforts through initiatives such as the implementation of electronic invoicing, enhanced taxpayer services, and expanded use of data analytics. Importantly, SARA will operate as a performance-based organization, designed to ensure greater accountability, efficiency, and service delivery while strengthening compliance and revenue collection.

The Government categorically rejects any claims that the transition to SARA will result in job losses. Every current employee of the BTSD will be guaranteed continued employment. All staff will be given the opportunity to transition into SARA under improved terms and conditions of service, including competitive compensation packages, modernized human resource policies, and greater opportunities for training, promotion, and professional development.

For those who choose not to transition, their employment will be safeguarded through redeployment within the wider public service. No public officer will be left without placement. The Government emphasizes that this reform is intended to strengthen, not diminish, the public service workforce, empowering staff with better tools, clearer career pathways, and a performance-based environment that rewards dedication and excellence while holding all employees accountable for delivering efficient, high-quality public service.

SARA will remain fully accountable to the Minister of Finance and, by extension, to the Belizean people. All revenue collected by SARA will continue to be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund in accordance with the law, ensuring full transparency and adherence to established public finance procedures. The phased implementation process includes the development of a robust legal framework, alignment of human resource policies, staff sensitization sessions, stakeholder consultations, and a comprehensive public information campaign to keep the public fully informed.

The Government remains steadfast in its commitment to building a modern, service-oriented, and performance-driven revenue authority that will deliver improved services to taxpayers, strengthen compliance, and support Belize's long-term economic development. (release)

Government of Belize - Brightwater Launch
First Blue Carbon Pilot
Advance Climate Solutions and Marine Conservation



August 4, 2025 - The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation, in partnership with Brightwater, is proud to announce the launch of Belize’s groundbreaking blue carbon pilot project, which will lead to the development and issuance of Belize’s first high-quality blue carbon credits.

This milestone reflects Belize’s continued leadership in nature-based climate solutions and its commitment to advancing a thriving blue economy through community engagement and long-term conservation.

Developed under an exclusive agreement between the Government of Belize and Brightwater, the pilot brings together the expertise of the Brightwater Collective’s technical advisors—Stantec Inc., JLL, SEARCH LLC, and Climate Wedge—alongside the Ministry’s on-the-ground partner, the Turneffe Atoll Sustainability Association (TASA). This collaboration combines world-class knowledge in coastal and marine science, carbon markets, finance, and cultural heritage. The pilot will serve as a model for scalable, science-driven climate action that delivers measurable emissions reductions, supports sustainable livelihoods, and strengthens the resilience of Belize’s coastal ecosystems and communities.

First focused on Turneffe Atoll—one of the most biologically diverse marine ecosystems in the Caribbean and a global priority for conservation—this blue carbon pilot aims to protect and restore critical mangrove and seagrass ecosystems that deliver essential climate mitigation benefits. In addition to carbon sequestration, the project will focus on measurable biodiversity uplift, enhance marine and coastal resilience, safeguard cultural and ecological heritage, and support sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

“The launch of this pilot is a major step forward for Belize’s blue economy,” said Ms. Beverly Wade, CEO in the Ministry of Blue Economy and Marine Conservation. “It reflects our commitment to protecting coastal ecosystems and advancing nature-based solutions as a core strategy for creating real economic value for our people, addressing the climate crisis, and delivering global environmental benefits.”

Grounded in science and stakeholder engagement, the project is designed to meet leading international standards for carbon verification and to serve as a scalable model for future blue carbon investments throughout Belize.

“Our mission is to develop high-quality blue carbon projects that deliver tangible community benefits, meaningful climate impact, and measurable biodiversity gains—grounded in local knowledge and stewardship, and building on the strong scientific foundation already established in Belize,” said Jessie Stenftenagel, CEO of Brightwater. “We are proud to work alongside the Government of Belize and our technical advisors to bring this landmark project to life.”

The Turneffe Atoll pilot includes ecological and carbon baseline assessments, participatory stakeholder engagement, ecosystem mapping, and the establishment of a robust monitoring and verification framework. Alongside carbon storage, the project will support sustainable fisheries, enhance reef health, and build local capacity in climate adaptation and coastal restoration.

“This blue carbon pilot exemplifies Belize’s leadership in mobilizing innovative finance for both nature and people,” said Hon. Christopher Coye, Minister of State for Finance. “By valuing our natural assets, we are unlocking new investment opportunities that strengthen our economy, empower local communities, and advance global climate goals.”

This initiative builds upon Belize’s world-renowned conservation legacy and its leadership in marine protection. It sets a new precedent for aligning government policy, scientific innovation, and international investment with nature-based climate solutions that center people, culture, and ecosystems. (release)

About Brightwater: Brightwater develops high-quality, people-centered blue carbon projects that leverage the power of coastal ecosystems to drive climate action, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development. Working in partnership with governments, scientists, investors, and communities, Brightwater is setting a new global standard for integrity, transparency, and long-term value in nature-based climate solutions.

Nationally
Determined
Contribution
(NDC) 3.0

The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Solid Waste Management, through the National Climate Change Office (NCCO), is proud to announce the official launch of Belize’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 3.0, which took place on July 31, 2025, at Oasis Hidden Hall, Belmopan City.

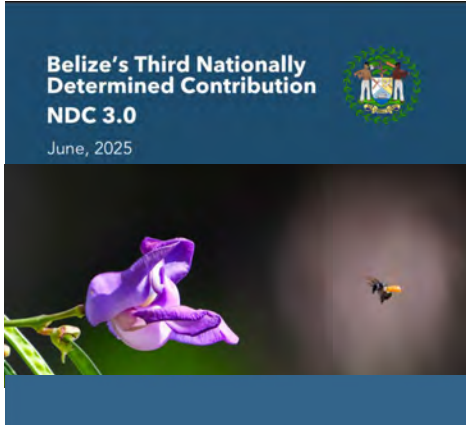
The Honorable Orlando Habet delivered the keynote address, emphasizing Belize’s transition from planning to action, in his words, “We are moving beyond commitments on paper. We are operationalizing them.” This milestone event highlighted the pivotal role of NDC 3.0 in guiding Belize’s journey toward a sustainable and climate-resilient future.

Key outcomes of Belize’s NDC 3.0 include:

- Increasing Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU)-related Greenhouse gas (GHG) removals by 63%.
- Targeting 75% renewable energy in electricity generation by 2030.
- Building resilience in key sectors and setting targets for land use, agriculture, energy, waste, and coastal adaptation.
- Broadening stakeholder engagement and detailed implementation plans.
- Outlines financial strategies and monitoring mechanisms. Commitment to both mitigation and adaptation.

For more information on Belize’s NDC 3.0, visit the National Climate Change Office website at <https://climatechange.gov.bz/>.

The launch of NDC 3.0 marks a pivotal moment in Belize’s climate journey, reaffirming our commitment to a low-carbon, sustainable future. Through this renewed pledge, Belize continues to lead by example in the region, demonstrating not only ambition but also readiness to partner in transforming that ambition into a tangible, lasting impact. (release)



MAFSE Opens in
Orange Walk District
Youth in Agriculture
Summer Camp

August 4, 2025 - The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise, in collaboration with Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, Minister of Agriculture, has officially launched the second annual Youth in Agriculture Summer Camp at the Yo Creek Agriculture Station. This dynamic week-long camp is designed to introduce children to the exciting world of agriculture in a fun, hands-on, and educational environment.

Over 100 enthusiastic children from Orange Walk South gathered this morning at the Yo Creek Agriculture Station, where they were warmly welcomed to a camp designed to show that agriculture is not just a profession, it's a way of life filled with innovation, discovery, and fun.

The camp will run for a full week, engaging participants in hands-on activities such as gardening, livestock care, and agro-processing, alongside interactive lessons that blend theory with practical experience. From planting seedlings to understanding soil health, the young campers will explore agriculture’s many exciting dimensions. This initiative underscores the Ministry’s commitment to promoting agriculture as a vibrant, rewarding, and sustainable career path for young Belizeans.(post)

Fresh off the summer camp for kids that saw them in hot houses, watching agricultural videos, in the field etc. the MAFSE is still on their quest to instill as much alacrity to doing things agriculture. Belize needs all the enthusiasm to learn how to put that knowledge into use to cement our food security. The more we feed ourselves the greater our economic power to build the nation.



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